

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for previewing the appearance of clothing as worn using a mobile communication device having a display, wherein the clothing item has an associated clothing item ID, comprising:
 - receiving the clothing item ID;
 - accessing a clothing item image based upon the clothing item ID;
 - overlaying the retrieved clothing item image onto an image of at least one of a user of the mobile communication device and a second person to produce a composite image; and
 - displaying the composite image on the display.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the clothing item ID is a code capable of being processed by an application running on said mobile communication device to render the clothing item image.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the clothing item ID comprises capturing an image of a tag associated with the clothing item, the tag providing the clothing item ID, and reading the clothing item ID from the capture image of the tag.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a second clothing item ID associated with a second clothing item;
 - accessing a second clothing item image based on the second clothing item ID;
 - overlaying the accessed second clothing item image onto the image of at least one of a user of the mobile communication device and a second person to produce a second composite image; and

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simultaneously displaying the first and the second composite images on the display.

5 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of receiving the clothing item ID comprises capturing an image of a tag associated with the clothing item, the tag providing the clothing item ID, and reading the clothing item ID from the captured image of the tag, and wherein the step of receiving the second clothing item ID comprises capturing an image of a second tag associated with the second clothing item, the second tag providing the second clothing item ID, and reading the second clothing item ID from the captured image of the second tag

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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a second clothing item ID associated with a second clothing item;
accessing a second clothing item image based on the second clothing item ID;
overlying the accessed first and second clothing item images onto the image of at
15 least one of a user of the mobile communication device and a second person to produce a second composite image; and
displaying the second composite image on the display.

20 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving the clothing item ID comprises capturing an image of a tag associated with the clothing item, the tag providing the clothing item ID, and reading the clothing item ID from the captured image of the tag, and wherein the step of receiving the second clothing item ID comprises capturing an image of a second tag associated with the second clothing item, the second tag providing the second clothing item ID, and reading the second clothing item ID from the captured image of the
25 second tag

8. The method of claim 1, wherein more than one image of at least one of the user and the second person is stored by the mobile communication device and the method further comprises the steps of:

prompting the user to select one of the more than one image of the user or the second
5 person stored by the mobile communication device; and

overlaying the retrieved clothing item image onto the selected image of the user or second person to produce the composite image.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving a clothing item image comprises the steps of:

10 establishing a wireless link between the mobile communication device and a database;

transmitting the clothing ID item from the mobile communication device to the database;

15 retrieving the clothing item image from the database based on the transmitted clothing item ID; and

transmitting the accessed clothing item image from the database to the mobile communication device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the wireless link is a wireless Internet link.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the clothing item ID specifies a URL of a
20 file in the database containing the clothing item image.

12. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

determining if a clothing item associated with the clothing item ID is available in at least two different colors; and

if the clothing item is available in at least two different colors, performing the steps of:

- displaying the different colors in which the clothing item is available on the display;
- 5 prompting the user to select one of the at least two different colors on the display;
- transmitting the color selection from the mobile communication device to the database;
- retrieving a clothing item image in the selected color from the database;
- 10 transmitting the clothing item image in the selected color from the database to the mobile communication device; and
- overlaying the retrieved clothing item image in the selected color onto the image of the user or second person to produce the composite image.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving a clothing item image
15 comprises the steps of:

- establishing a link between the mobile communication device and an access port;
- establishing a link between the access port and a database;
- transmitting the clothing item ID from the mobile communication device to the database through the access port;
- 20 retrieving a clothing item image from the database based on the transmitted clothing item ID; and
- transmitting the retrieved clothing item image from the database to the mobile communication device through the access port.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

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displaying the image of the user or second person on the display;
enabling the user to mark off different body parts on the image of the user or second
person;
storing coordinates of the body parts marked off by the user; and
5 adjusting proportions of the accessed clothing item image according to the
coordinates of the body parts marked off by the user.

15. A method for previewing the appearance of a clothing item as worn using a
mobile communication device having a display, wherein the clothing item has an associated
tag providing an image of the clothing item, comprising:
10 accessing the clothing item image from the tag;
overlaying the clothing item image onto a stored image of at least one of a user of the
mobile communication device and a second person to produce a composite image; and
displaying the composite image on the display.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the mobile communication device further
15 includes a camera, and wherein the clothing item image is provided in the tag as optical
indicia readable by the camera.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the tag comprises an RF tag having memory
and the clothing item image is stored in the memory of the RF tag.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
20 accessing a second clothing item image from a second tag associated with a second
clothing item;
overlaying the second clothing item image onto the image of at least one of the user

and a second person to produce a second composite image; and
simultaneously displaying the first and the second composite images on the display.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
accessing a second clothing item image from a second tag associated with a second
5 clothing item;
overlaying the first and second clothing item images onto the image of the user or
second person to produce a second composite image; and
displaying the second composite image on the display

10 18. A mobile communication device, comprising:
a display for displaying an image to a user of the mobile communication device; and
a memory for storing an image of at least one of the user of the mobile
communication device and a second person;
wherein the mobile communication device accesses a clothing item image based upon
15 a received clothing item ID associated with a clothing item to be previewed and overlays the
clothing item image onto the image of the user or second person to produce a composite
image for display by the display.

19. The mobile communication device of claim 18, wherein the mobile
20 communication device further includes a camera for capturing an image of the tag, the
clothing item ID being discerned from the captured image.

20. The mobile communication device of claim 18, wherein the clothing item ID
is provided via an RF tag associated with the clothing item, the RF tag having memory and
25 the clothing item ID being stored in the memory.

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21. A mobile communication device, comprising:
a display for displaying an image to a user of the mobile communication device; and
a memory for storing an image of at least one of the user of the mobile
5 communication device and a second person;

wherein the mobile communication device accesses a clothing item image from a tag
associated with a clothing item to be previewed and overlays the clothing item image onto
the image of the user or second person to produce a composite image for display by the
display.

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22. The mobile communication device of claim 21, wherein the mobile
communication device further includes a camera, and wherein the clothing item image is
provided on a tag associated with the clothing item as optical indicia readable by the camera.

23. The mobile communication device of claim 21, wherein the clothing item
15 image is provided via an RF tag associated with the clothing item, the RF tag having memory
and the clothing item image being stored in the memory.

24. A portable wardrobe previewing system, comprising:
a mobile communication device having a display,
20 a tag associated with a clothing item to be previewed, the tag providing a clothing item
image;
wherein the mobile communication device accesses the clothing item image from the tag
and overlays the clothing item image onto an image of at least one of a user of the
mobile communication device and a second person to produce a composite image,
25 the composite image being displayed on the display.

25. The portable wardrobe previewing system of claim 24, wherein the mobile communication device further includes a camera, and wherein the clothing item image is provided on the tag associated with the clothing item as optical indicia readable by the camera.

5 26. The portable wardrobe previewing system of claim 24, wherein the clothing item image is provided via an RF tag associated with the clothing item, the RF tag having memory and the clothing item image being stored in the memory.

 27. A portable wardrobe previewing system, comprising:
10 a mobile communication device having a display,
a tag associated with a clothing item, the tag providing a clothing item ID for the clothing item,
wherein the mobile communication device receives the clothing item ID from the tag, the clothing item ID being used for accessing a clothing item image whereupon the clothing item image is overlaid onto an image of at least one of a user of the mobile
15 communication device and a second person to produce a composite image for being displayed on the display.

 28. The portable wardrobe previewing system of claim 27, wherein the mobile communication device further includes a camera for capturing an image of the tag, the
20 clothing item ID being discerned from the captured image.

 29. The portable wardrobe previewing system of claim 27, wherein the tag comprises an RF tag having memory, the clothing item ID being stored in the memory.